

PRAY OR PERISH.

Hindu holy men, reading the stars, foresee a lot of trouble in the next few weeks. Chief Priest Jagadguru (on the right) and 700 lesser saints from many parts of India, came to Delhi to make a religious effort to ward off the peril.

The reason for the congress is that the planets are in a most unusual combination, which means, say the astrologers, danger for India. By reading the Hindu scriptures, the priests appeal to their gods to spare the country. In front of each saint is a coconut, a fruit looked upon with favour by the gods. 800 yards ago, the last time the planets were in the present configuration, India suffered invasion. The time before that, 5,000 years ago, there was a disastrous war. Clarified butter feeds the holy fire while they recite the Gaytri Mantra prayer. In a stocking they have a rosary, to keep count of the recitals.

The praying is continued each day, from 8 till 6, and even western sceptics have to admit that our own political efforts to keep trouble at bay are not so successful that we can afford to scoff at the Indian methods. So may the Delhi Yajna be rewarded, and calamity not engulf India.